(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) WHO has laid down norms covering various aspects concerning the health sector. In particular, WHO has developed standards for pharmaceutical products like vaccines, drugs, etc. However, no WHO norms have been made available for hospital management or administration.

AIIMS doctors abroad

†63. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Professors were staying abroad for years together on the pretext of research with connivance of the AIIMS administration;

(b) whether it is also a fact that services of such Professors have been terminated by the then Director, AIIMS and the pecuniary penalty against a few of them have been imposed; and

(c) if so, the number of Professors whose services have been terminated and the penalty imposed on each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Two faculty members at the level of Professor overstayed abroad beyond the permissible period of foreign assignment. The other faculty members who have overstayed are either below the level of Professor or have overstayed in assignments within the country.

(b) and (c) One of the Professors who has overstayed abroad has been dismissed. Disciplinary action has been initiated against the other.

Monetary incentive on female birth

64. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new scheme of providing increased monetary incentive on female birth;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether it is enough to remove prejudices against the girl child and prevent female infanticide;

(c) whether such schemes would bring about a qualitative change in the society; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There Is a proposal to introduce a Centrally sponsored scheme in the name of Janani Suraksha Yojana. The scheme shall not only integrate the existing National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) and the other ongoing Maternal Health Scheme but will also introduce several new initiatives. Among other things, cash assistance of Rs. 500/-for birth of male child and Rs. 1000/-for birth of female child will be provided to expectant women belonging to Below Poverty Line families up to two live births.

(b) to (d) The scheme is aimed at primarily to improve utilization of anti-natal care and institutional deliveries and nutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers in order to reduce neo-natal, infant and maternal mortality, leading to improving child survival and maternal health. The proposed scheme is envisaged as a step towards removing prejudices against the girl child.

With a view to remove the wide spread discrimination against the girl child, intervention of schemes such as the above and the other Reproductive and Child Health Programmes are being undertaken. Further, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act 1994 and Amendments thereof have been enacted by the Parliament with a view to prohibit sex selection before or after conception and for regulation of pre-natal diagnostic techniques and for prevention of their misuse in sex determination leading to female foeticide and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Promotion of siddha system of medicine

65. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of a hospital to promote siddha system of medicines at Chennai is progressing very slowly;